

Transportation Planning Implications of Census Urbanized Area Designations

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Poll Question #1

What is your affiliation?

- New MPO Staff
- New MPO Board Member
- State DOT
- Transit Operator
- FHWA Division
- FTA Region
- FTA or FHWA Headquarters
- Other

Congratulations on your Census UZA Designation!



Agenda

1. Background on Census UZA Designation
2. The Need for Planning on a Regional Scale
3. Implications of UZA Designation for Transportation Planning
4. Establishing a High-Performing Metropolitan Planning Process
5. Technical Assistance Available to You



Objectives of Webinar

- Convey the Basics of Census UZA Designation
- Outline Federal Requirements for Planning and Identify the Planning Implications of UZA Designation
- Identify Key Actions for MPOs, Local Agencies, Transit Providers, and States
- Answer Questions / Forum for Peer Dialogue
- Communicate the Availability of Continuing Technical Assistance and Support from FTA/FHWA



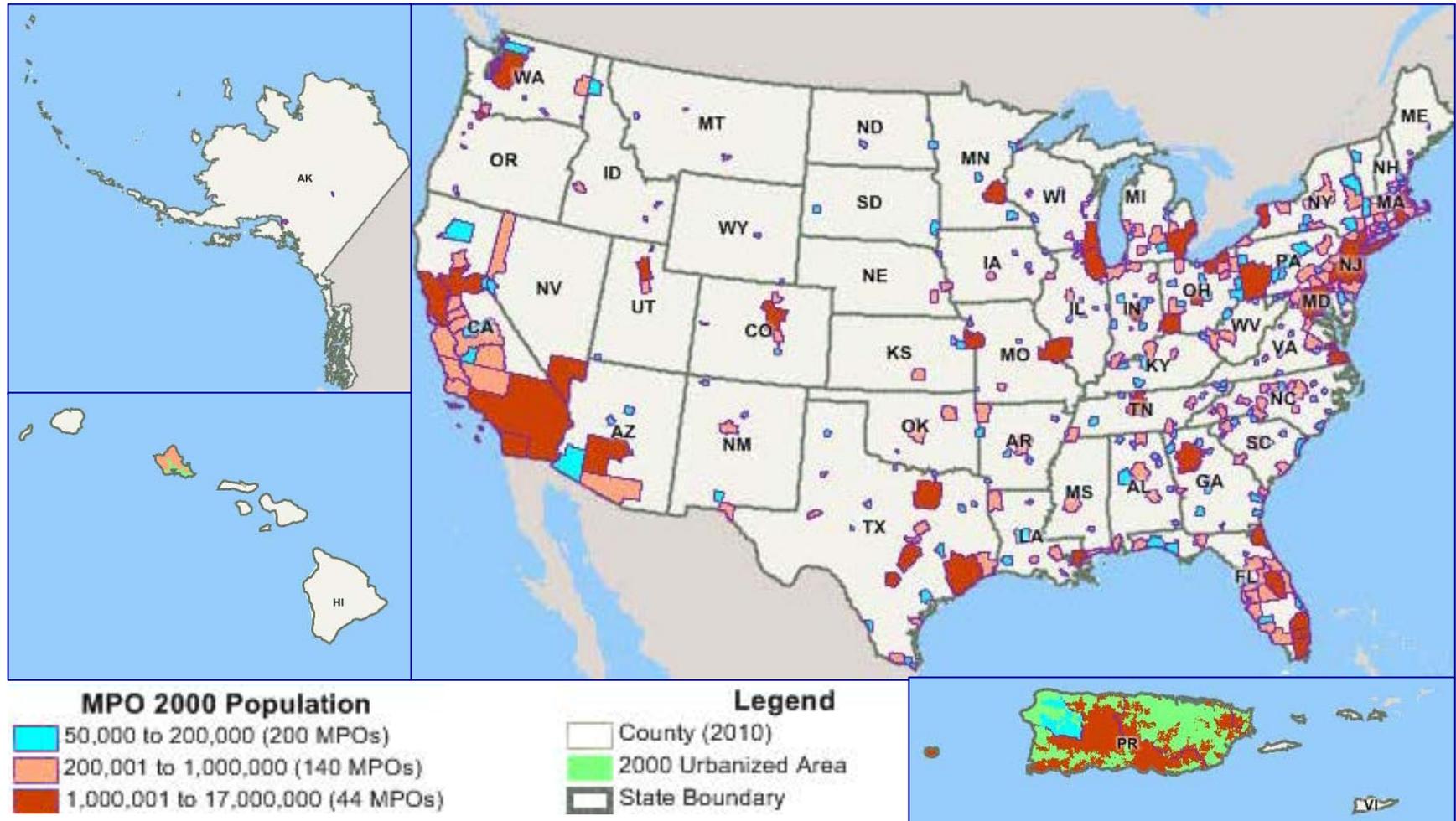
After this webinar, you will be able to:

- Explain the value of planning at a regional level
- Describe the functions and purpose of an MPO, including Board Members, Staff, and Committees
- Recall the Federal requirements for metropolitan transportation planning and planning products
- Identify the various ways new MPOs are establishing and growing their planning processes
- Be aware of the Technical Assistance and Support available from FTA/FHWA **and** how to access it

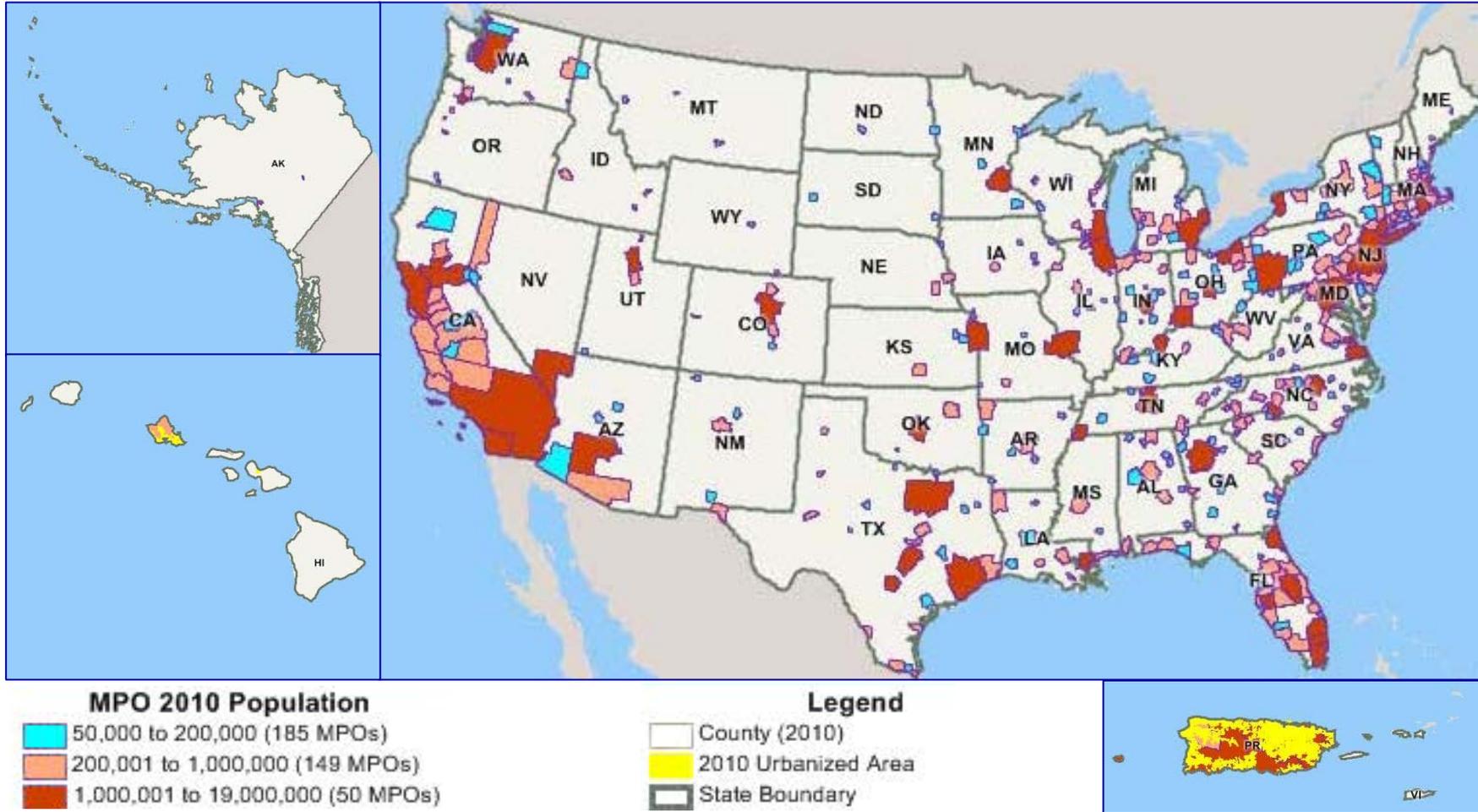
Changes in Urbanized Area Populations

- 2010 population of the U.S. was 308.7 million, an increase since 2000 of 27.3 million (+9.7%)
- Urbanized population was 223.3 million, an increase since 2000 of 27.5 million (+14%)
- 36 UZAs are new (average size: 58,585)
- Even more UZAs grew to encompass additional, formerly rural, localities

Current MPOs (per 2000 Census)



New MPOs (per 2010 Census)



New MPOs (Cont.)

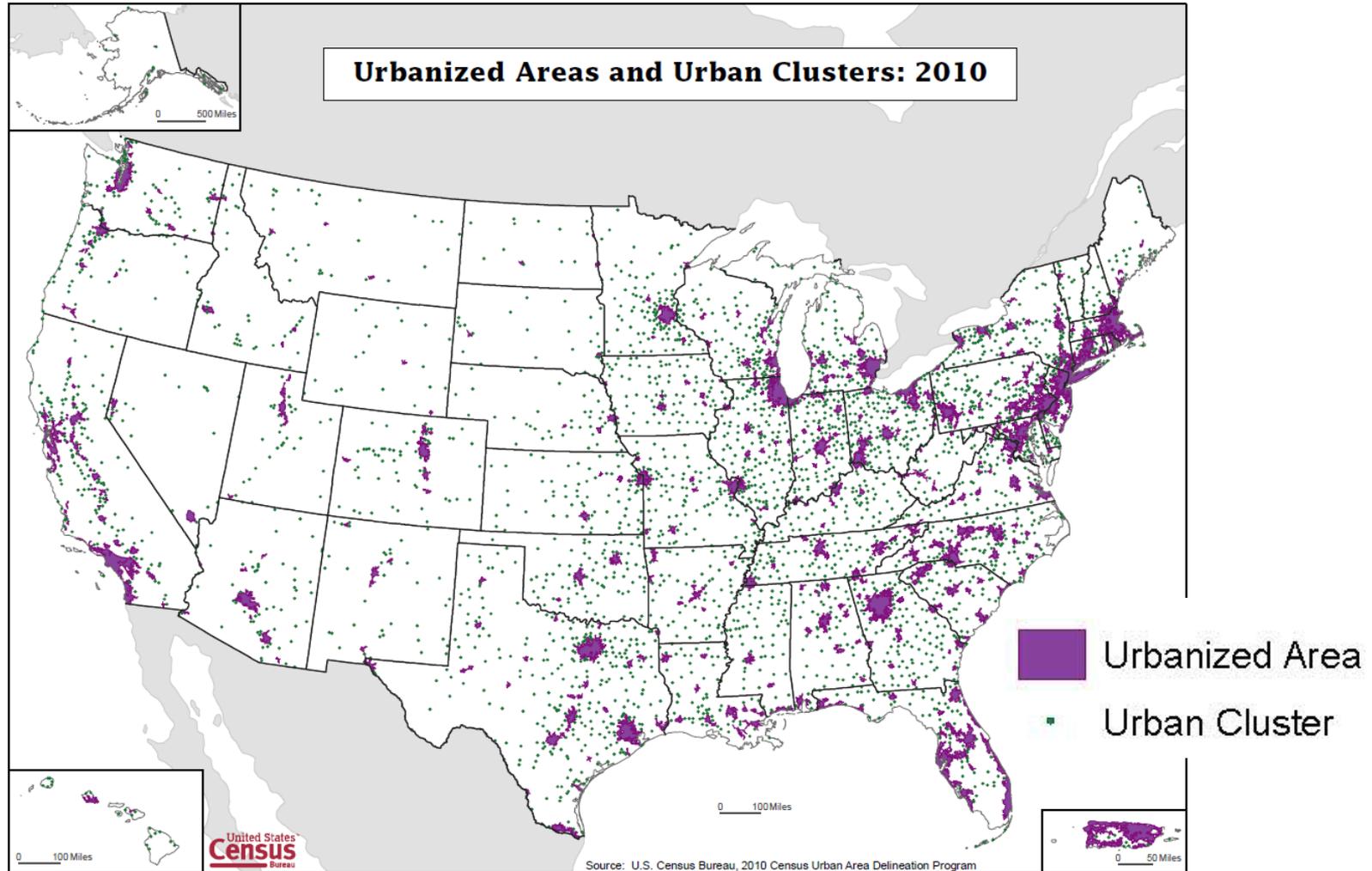


What is an Urbanized Area (UZA)?

- Concept: dense core and “connected” areas with total population of at least 50,000
- Criteria: technical criteria developed, published for review and comment, and used by the Census Bureau to define UZAs
 - <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-08-24/pdf/2011-21647.pdf>
- Appeal: use of objective, non-program, publically reviewed UZA criteria limits the case for appeal of a UZA designation to the Census Bureau.



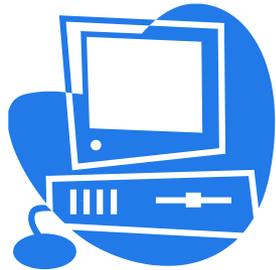
Urbanized Areas & Urban Clusters



<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-27/pdf/2012-6903.pdf>

Transportation Planning Implications of Census Urbanized Area Designations

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Planning on a Regional Scale

- Urban & Rural Areas Face Transportation Issues
- Problems in Urban Communities
 - More Intense
 - Longer Duration
 - Larger Spatial Extent
- Region Focus: Across Counties, Modes, 20 Years



Rationale for Regional, Multimodal Planning

- *Interconnected Localities Comprise an Urban Area:* Transportation problems involve solutions undertaken by, and affecting, more than one locality
- *Broad Range of Transportation Strategies:* multimodal, and management/operational, to comprise "system"
- *It's More than Transportation:* Extensive span of factors that affect / are affected by, transportation require a "regional" view



Poll Question #2

What transportation issues face your region?

- Traffic Safety
- In-Town Traffic Congestion
- Congestion at Major Employment Site
- Air Quality
- Lack of Transportation Options to Driving
- Growing Population with Limited Mobility
- Other



Short Description of Metropolitan Planning

- a continuous process that involves monitoring current system performance and conditions, forecasting future needs, and prioritizing investment options to address those needs using performance indicators / targets
- provides the information, tools, public involvement, and organizational framework for decision-making needed for improving transportation system performance
- Conducted at Metropolitan level, as well as Statewide



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Planning Implications

- Projects and services in UZAs can be funded by FTA/FHWA *only* upon establishing a planning process and designating a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to manage the process.
- Localities in new or enlarged UZAs must form a new MPO, or join an existing MPO serving an adjacent UZA, to access FTA/FHWA funds



Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

- Intergovernmental forum for cooperative regional planning, with a Board of Officials and a Staff Agency
- MPOs, "... in cooperation with the State and public transportation operators, develops
 - metropolitan transportation plans (20 years) and
 - transportation improvement programs (4 years)
through a performance-driven...approach...."
- All localities in UZAs must form, or join, an MPO.



Establishing a Metropolitan Planning Process

- Designation / Re-designation of an MPO
- Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)
- Metropolitan Planning Agreement
- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Public Participation Plan
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)



Poll Question #3

Which of the following steps have you completed?

- Set a Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)
- Approved a Metropolitan Planning Agreement
- Prepared a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Prepared a Public Participation Plan
- Prepared a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Prepared a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)



Designation of MPO in a New UZA

Designation by

- Local Units of Government Representing 75% of UZA Population, plus Central City
- The Governor

Membership

- Local Governments, including Central City
- Appropriate State Officials
- Operators of Major Transportation Modes
- Stakeholder Groups, Agencies, the Public



Poll Question #4

What voting members are on your MPO board?

- State Officials
- Public Transit Providers
- Operators of Other Transportation Modes
- Stakeholder Groups
- the Public
- Other

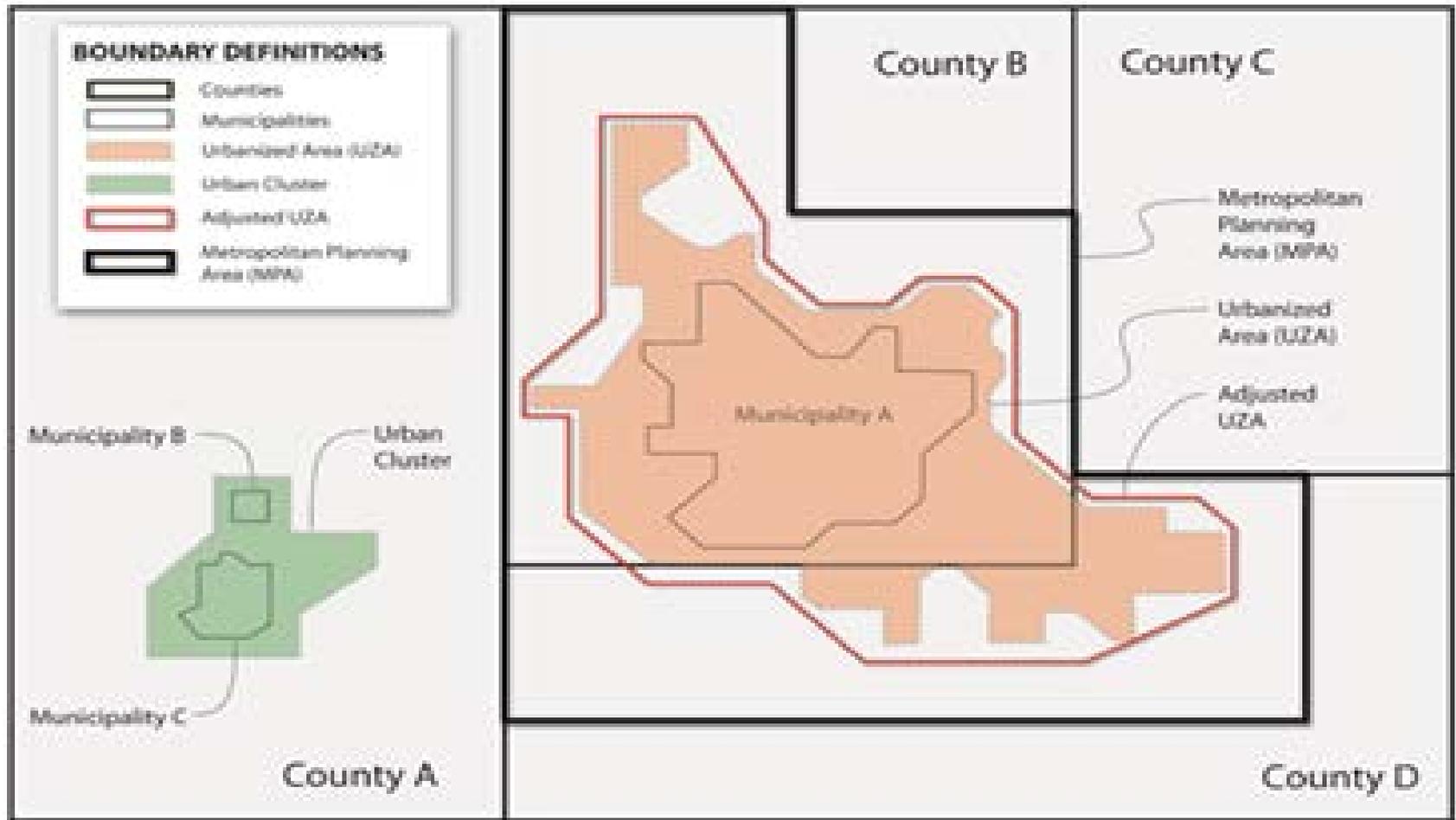


Smoothing UZA Boundary

- Smooth “rough edges” for FHWA purposes:
 - Urban/rural design criteria and
 - HPMS data collection (by June 2014)
- Include airports/industrial parks at the edge
- Eliminate Urban boundary running down the center line of a road
- Agreed to by State DOT and MPO
- Does not change ‘official’ Census boundary for population counts affecting fund apportionment



Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)



Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)

- Should Reflect Urban Area Anticipated over Next 20 Years – the MPO's planning horizon
- Must Span the Current UZA – at a Minimum
- Projects and Services within MPA Funded by FTA or FHWA Must Appear in MTP and TIP
- Consider Infrastructure Service Areas, Local Master Plans/Zoning, and Air Quality Areas
- Approval by MPO and State



Metropolitan Planning Agreement

Rules of Engagement for key processes/ products:

- Document Preparation: UPWP, Public Participation Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, TIP
- Planning Procedures: Revenue forecasts, project selection, performance targets, air quality, annual list of obligated projects
- Advisory Committee/Subcommittee: functions, membership, and meeting logistics



Metropolitan Planning Agreement

Typical roles and responsibilities addressed:

- MPO Activities, including Documents, Committee Membership and Voting Arrangements
- Coordination with Air Quality Planning in Air Quality Nonattainment and Maintenance areas
- Coordination of MPO Plan with Other Agency Plans
- Demographic and Financial Forecasts for Plan & TIP
- Acquisition/Maintenance of Planning Tools (models)
- Cost Principles and Records Management of MPO



Poll Question #5

Who signed the MPO Agreement?

- MPO
- State
- Transit
- Air Quality Agency
- Citizens
- Other



MPO Agreement. Photo by Bruno Covas, 2009.

Poll Question #6

What does the MPO Agreement include?

- Detailed Roles in Preparing Key Documents
- Roles in Setting TIP Priorities & Project Selection
- Members, Roles, Meetings of Advisory Committees
- Provisions for Transportation / Air Quality Planning
- Other



Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): *"the plan for planning"*

- Planning tasks/studies conducted in 1-2 year period
- FTA/FHWA funded studies (and non-Federal for info only), including transportation/air quality planning
- Project sponsor, funding source, schedule for projects
- "Simplified Statement of Work" in small UZAs, with project sponsor, products, funding, and matching \$
- Prepare in 1st year to access FTA/FHWA Funds
- In-State Formula allocation approved by FTA/FHWA



UPWP Work Activity Examples

- Administration of Planning Program – staff support for meetings, report preparation, computers
- Data Collection/Forecasting – assembly and analysis of traffic and transit ridership counts, travel surveys, development of forecasting tools
- Public Involvement – outreach and dialogues in accordance with Public Participation Plan
- Transportation Plan and Program – studies and document preparation by staff and contractors
- Special Studies – corridor/subarea mobility, multimodal needs analyses, non-motorized, etc.



Poll Question #7

Does your UPWP include provisions and funding for preparing:

- MTP
- TIP
- Demographic Forecasts
- Revenue Forecasts
- Regional Mobility Needs Studies
- Capital Reinvestment/State of Good Repair



Public Participation Plan

- Program funds in UPWP to prepare in 1st year
- Proactive, Early, Open, Continuous, and Collaborative, w/ many “Interested Parties”
- MPOs must prepare Public Participation Plans
 - detailed procedures for engagement
 - in collaboration with public & stakeholders
- Must be used for MTP & TIP preparation



Poll Question #8

Does your Participation Plan include:

- Public Input and Review of Key Documents
- Special Efforts to Engage Under-Represented Populations
- Establishment of Citizen Advisory Committee
- Coordination with Other Agencies' Public Involvement
- Timing/Procedures for Evaluating Participation Plan
- Other



Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

- The Region's Vision and supporting policies, operational strategies, and projects to achieve it
- Spans short and long-range - at least 20 years
- Has a Financial Plan and is Fiscally Constrained
- Contains agreed upon Performance Targets
- Staff Prepares, Advisory Committees review, MPO Board Adopts an Update every 4-5 years
- Should program funds in UPWP to begin preparing



Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- 4-year schedule of annual transportation spending priorities consistent with the MTP
- Has Financial Plan/Fiscally Constrained by Year
- Public engaged per Public Participation Plan
- Staff Prepares, Advisory Committees review, MPO Board Approves Update every 4 years
- Projects' Anticipated Progress in Meeting Performance Targets
- TIP Incorporated Without Change to STIP



Successful Partnerships in a New MPO

- Understand Players, Processes, and Products
- Build “Community” Awareness of Mobility Challenges/Establish Regional Needs Agenda
- Tap UPWP Opportunity to Address Needs
 - Congestion/Mobility Needs Studies
 - Data Collection / Travel Forecasting
 - Multimodal Corridor and Subarea Studies
- Advisory Committee Participation & Public Engagement Make the Case and Bolster Support



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Available Information & Technical Assistance

- Frequently Asked Questions on FTA/FHWA Websites
 - http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/census_issues/urbanized_areas_and_mpo_tma/faq/
 - http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/Census_2010_and_FTA_Formula_Grants10-25-12.pdf
- Training from National Transit Institute (NTI) and National Highway Institute (NHI)
 - <http://www.ntionline.com/courses/list.php>
 - <http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/default.aspx>
- Case studies of new MPO formation
 - http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/census_issues/urbanized_areas_and_mpo_tma/additional_resources/

Transportation Planning Capacity-Building Program (TPCB)

- Web-based Information Dissemination
 - Website with Extensive Collection of Case Studies
 - Library of Streamed Webinar Broadcasts
- Facilitated Peer Exchanges – on request
- Informational Presentations at Stakeholder Events
- Accessible at: <http://www.planning.dot.gov/>
 - *The Transportation Planning Process: Key Issues – A Briefing Book for Transportation Decisionmakers, Officials, and Staff* is accessible at: <http://www.planning.dot.gov/documents/briefingbook/bbook.htm>



Contact your Local FTA/FHWA Offices

- **FTA Region Offices:**
http://www.fta.dot.gov/12317_1119.html
- **FHWA Division Offices**
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/about/field.cfm>



Contact Us!

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